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style is clear and conversational rather than didactic, and the topics include a wide range of thought. The hints on discipline, and on the teaching of arithmetic, language, and history are of more than ordinary value.

## IV.

## MR. CABLE'S "BONAVENTURE."

If one could imagine Longfellow writing the history of the descendants of Benedict Bellefontaine and Basil the blacksmith, in the forests of Beau Bassin, his fancy could picture nothing more delightfully real and in consonance with all that the poet tells us of the simple Acadian peasants than Mr. Cable's "Bonaventure."\* The charm of the pastoral life of these unlearned, unsuspicuous people in their rude homes far away from the stir of modern life is as novel as it is indescribable.

Of all the interesting portraits, none equals in finish and delicacy that of Bonaventure, especially with Sidonie by his side. The gentle, artless boy, the born lover, whose big blue eyes fill with tears at each of the numerous Gradnegro weddings; because, by some oversight, he and the little Zoséphine are still unwed, is the sorrowful hero of "Carancro," the first story. His rejected love sends him to the good curé who teaches him from his few books all the learning at his command. In "Grande Pointe," however, the author paints his finest touches, and Bonaventure now appears as the poor enthusiastic lover of his kind who seeks out the distant hamlet hitherto untouched in the swift circling round of busy life, and in sweet and gentle fashion teaches marvelous English to the wondering, half-doubting "Cajuns." The plot, style and poetry of the pastoral is most finely wrought out here. In "Au Large" the city streets furnish an occasional background, but out at "Grande Pointe," the home of the birds and the bees and their equally happy human neighbors, there is nothing to intercept one's vision. Here "all nature is in glad gay earnest. Corn in blossom and rustling in the warm breeze; blackberries ripe; morning-glories underfoot, the trumpet-flower flaring from its dense green vine high above on the naked, girdled tree; the cotton-plant blooming white, yellow and red in the field beneath, honey a-making in the hives and hollow trees, butterflies and bees lingering in the fields at sunset, the moth venturing forth at the first sign of dew, and Sidonie,—a wild rose tree."

Because the central figures in Grande Pointe are so unique, those of "Au Large," who resemble the men and women we have known, lose something by contrast. But the story of the pitiful, outlawed homicide of Lake Cataouaché, struggling for his life with threatening flood and deadly reptiles, is one of the strongest descriptions in the book. It is safe to say that Mr. Cable has never produced anything so delightful and so artistic as "Bonaventure," and, having entered and explored this fascinating Acadian region so thoroughly, we do not see how he will be able to surpass so pleasant and popular a story.

## V.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

THERE have been many histories of the United States written within the few last years. But no writer has succeeded better than Mr. Childs in condensing into the short space of 260 pages the various historical facts which every one should know. In the little book† which he has sent into the world through the press of

\* "Bonaventure: A Prose Pastoral of Acadian Louisiana." By George W. Cable. Charles Scribner's Sons.

† "A History of the United States in Chronological Order, A. D. 1492 to 1888." By Emory E. Childs. J. S. Ogilvie & Co., New York.